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REMARKS

u Claims 1-9 stand rejected in the outstanding Official Action. Claims 1-9 have been cancelled without prejudice and newly written claims 12-25 submitted for consideration. Therefore, claims 12-25 are the only claims remaining in this application.

u The Examiner's acknowledgment of applicant's claim for priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document is very much appreciated. Additionally, the Examiner's initialling and dating PTO Form 1449 in conjunction with applicant's previously submitted Information Disclosure Statement is appreciated.

u Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (second paragraph) as being indefinite. Claims 1-9 have been cancelled without prejudice and rewritten as claims 12-25. In rewriting the claims, applicant eliminated the use of the phrase "and/or." Applicant has also amended the other objected to language of claims 1, 6 and 7 in these newly written claims. Therefore, consideration of newly written claims 12-25 is respectfully requested.

C Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Pizzi ('380). While the Examiner correctly notes that lines 3-26 of page 19 of Pizzi shows interleaving, it does not show or disclose interleaving header and payload data with a synchronization signal. Because the transmission of synchronization signals occur over regular intervals, they are inherently prone to detection and corruption. The present invention hides the synchronization signals by interleaving header and payload data with the synchronization signals, thereby effectively camouflaging the presence of synchronization signals within a data frame.

Nowhere in the Pizzi reference is there a disclosure of this particular technique. As a further

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benefit, because the synchronization signal is interleaved with the data, the present invention possesses the ability to reacquire synchronization in the event of signal loss. As a result, and because all of the independent claims recite the above feature, these claims and claims dependent thereon are clearly patentable over the Pizzi reference. Should the Examiner believe Pizzi to disclose the interleaving of the encoded header and payload information with synchronization data within a transmission frame, he is respectfully requested to point out the column and line number of such disclosure. Absent such disclosure, it is clear that the newly submitted claims are patentable over the Pizzi reference and any further rejection thereunder is respectfully traversed.

Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that claims 12-25 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:

Stanley C. Spooner
Reg. No. 27,393

SCS/kmm
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4028
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

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